

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/851,946
Response filed August 24, 2004
Reply to OA dated May 6, 2004

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in this application. No amendment has been proposed in this Response.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Thiessen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,297,657). (Office action paragraph no. 2)

Applicant's agent, Daniel Geselowitz, conducted a personal interview with Examiner Nguyen on August 11, 2004. In the interview, Applicant discussed the differences between the disclosure of Thiessen et al. and the recitation of claim 1. In particular, Applicant noted that layers 56 and 58 in Thiessen were cited as corresponding to as corresponding to the recited "plurality of laminated substrates, and said plurality of substrates **can be separated one by one from the lowest layer** to keep a necessary length of a leading end contact part of said probes in case of wear."

Applicant noted that reference numeral 44 in Thiessen et al. is a "lower die member" (column 4, lines 5-16). Lower die member 44 is preferably made of nickel alloy INVAR. Reference numeral 56 is an "inner insulating coating of aluminum oxide or other suitable dielectric material such as tantalum or silicon dioxide" (column 5, lines 4-8). Reference numeral 58 is "an additional coating of an anti-stick film." Applicant argued that it is impossible to separate these layers one by one, and that even if one could separate the layers, the device of Thiessen would not function with the layers separated.

In response, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the final rejection over Thiessen et al. and to conduct an additional search. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his cooperation in conducting the

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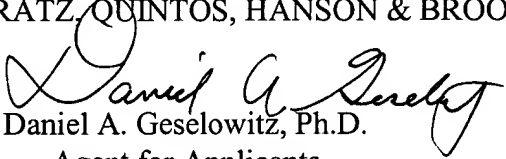
interview.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time

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